Collecting revenue by Government

1559. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Times of India' dated 19th October, 2001, under the heading "Collecting revenue by the sackful"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, however, the gunny bags photographed in the captioned news-item contain redundant record rather than files with revenue potential. Segregation was necessary in the post-restructuring era since the new jurisdiction has been carved on the basis of geographical area, involving large-scale transfer of files.

Scrutiny norms have been formulated keeping in view the considered policy of the Department to conduct in-depth investigation in selected cases to ensure effective deterrence to tax defaulters rather than to provide amnesty to any class. Timely refunds are being issued wherever due.

All out efforts are being made to increase tax base through focussed schemes like 1/6 criteria, making filing of return of income, obligatory for those who fulfil the same. In keeping with the need to induct latest technology, computerization has been taken up as a key result area.

The Department's response *vis-a-vis* appropriate infrastructure has been and will be consistent with the growing needs.

Action against corrupt tax officials

1560. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned, "Government plans to retire corrupt tax officials", which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi, dated the 9th November, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plans to retire corrupt tax official in the country; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to draft some definite guidelines in this regard, and if so, the details thereof?